



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 33 New Mexico counties (plus neighboring counties in Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah) may now apply for low interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenue to farmers and ranchers caused by the drought and high winds in the 31 primary New Mexico counties beginning January 1, 2006 announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center – West.

Small businesses in the following primary and neighboring counties may apply:

Primary New Mexico counties:

Bernalillo	Catron	Cibola	Colfax	Curry
De Baca	Dona Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guadalupe
Harding	Hidalgo	Lea	Lincoln	Luna
McKinley	Mora	Otero	Quay	Rio Arriba
Roosevelt	San Juan	San Miguel	Sandoval	Santa Fe
Sierra	Socorro	Taos	Torrance	Union
Valencia				

Neighboring New Mexico counties:

Chaves Los Alamos

Neighboring Arizona counties:

Apache Cochise Greenlee

Neighboring Colorado counties:

Archuleta	Baca	Conejos	Costilla	La Plata
Las Animas	Montezuma			

Neighboring Oklahoma county:

Cimarron

Neighboring Texas counties:

Andrews	Bailey	Cochran	Culberson	Dallam
Deaf Smith	El Paso	Gaines	Hartley	Hudspeth
Loving	Oldham	Parmer	Reeves	Winkler
Yoakum				

Neighboring Utah county:

San Juan

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Bill Richardson.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance.

For information and application forms call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Mail completed applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration at 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **January 18, 2007**.